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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor	Stephen T. Stephanos et al.
Appln. No.	10/662,056
Filed	September 12, 2003
For	SAMPLE HANDLING SYSTEM WITH SOLVENT WASHING
Docket No.	R22.12-0036

Group Art Unit: 2856  
Examiner: ---

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING SENT BY U.S. MAIL, FIRST CLASS, TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, THIS

3<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF Sept, 2004  
C C

PATENT ATTORNEY

Sir:

The patents or publications listed on the enclosed PTO Form-1449 are submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97. Copies of the patents or publications cited are enclosed, except as waived by the Official Gazette notice of August 5, 2003 regarding copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications.

Submitted herewith is a copy (with English translation as appropriate) of an Official Search Report of the EPO Patent Office in counterpart foreign application No. PCT/US2004/003048 filed April 2, 2004.

## TIME OF FILING

The information disclosure statement is being filed:

1. X with the application or within three months of the filing date of the application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ after the time period specified in paragraph 1 above, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37

C.F.R. § 1.113 or notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311. Therefore, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), submitted herewith is:

(check either A or B below)

- A.  a statement as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).
- B.  the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c).

3.  after the mailing date of either a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, whichever occurs first, but before payment of the issue fee. Therefore, Applicant petitions for consideration and submits herewith:

- A. a statement as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e);
- B. the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

**STATEMENT**

(only used if No. 2(A) or No. 3 above is checked)

The person(s) signing below certify

(check appropriate paragraph)

that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

OR

that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

X No fee is required.

Attached is a check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123. A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

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Sheet 1 of 1

FORM PTO-1449

Atty. Docket No.:  
R22.12-0036Appl. No.:  
10/662,056LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR  
APPLICANT'S INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

First Named Inventor:

Stephen T. Staphanos et al.

Filing Date                          Group Art:

September 12, 2003                2856

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document No.	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
AA	2,987,921	06/13/61	Kraftson			
AB	3,107,535	10/22/63	Kraftson			
AC	2,685,205	08/03/54	Barnard			
AD	4,586,390	05/06/86	Helke	73	864.73	
AE	3,641,821	02/15/72	Neuberger et al.	73	421.5	
AF						
AG						
AH						
AI						
AJ						
AK						
AL						
AM						
AN						
AO						
AP						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document No.	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes No
AQ	2 020 016 A	11/07/79	Great Britain			

## OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

AR | Copy of Search Report

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.